

**EXHIBIT A**

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8  
9 *Attorneys for Defendants Barbara Cegavske  
and Aaron Ford*

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11 **IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF**  
12 **NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY**  
13

14 DANIEL CORONA, DARIN MAINS,  
BRIAN MELENDEZ, TERESA  
15 MELENDEZ, NEVADA STATE  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY, DNC SERVICES  
16 CORPORATION/DEMOCRATIC  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE, DCCC, and  
17 PRIORITIES USA,

18 Plaintiffs,

19 vs.

20 BARBARA CEGAVSKE, in her official  
capacity as Nevada Secretary of State,  
21 JOSEPH P. GLORIA, in his official  
capacity as Registrar of Voters for Clark  
22 County, Nevada, DEANNA SPIKULA, in  
her official capacity as Registrar of Voters  
23 for Washoe County, Nevada, KRISTINE  
JAKEMAN, in her official capacity as the  
24 Elko County Clerk, and AARON FORD, in  
his official capacity as the Attorney  
25 General of the State of Nevada,

26 Defendants.

Case No. 20-OC-00064 1B

27  
28 **DECLARATION OF WAYNE THORLEY**

1 I, WAYNE THORLEY, declare as follows:

2 I am the Deputy of Elections for the Nevada Secretary of State. I was appointed to  
3 the position of Deputy of Elections pursuant to NRS 225.060(1), and I have held the position  
4 since October 21, 2015. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth below, and if  
5 called upon to testify in the above-captioned matter, I would testify as follows:

6 1. For the 2020 primary election in Nevada, the Secretary of State, in  
7 partnership with Nevada's 17 county election officials, developed a plan to implement an  
8 all-mail primary election in order to diminish the spread of COVID-19. The decision to  
9 hold the all-mail primary was announced to the public on March 24, 2020.

10 2. Given the need to be proactive with preparations for the 2020 primary  
11 election, the decision to hold an all-mail primary election was announced as soon as possible  
12 after state and county election officials had evaluated and discussed the many logistical,  
13 fiscal, and public health challenges associated with holding an election during the COVID-  
14 19 pandemic.

15 3. Historically more than 90 percent of Nevada's voters have cast their votes in  
16 person at physical polling locations staffed and managed by volunteers and county election  
17 officials. Because Nevada's system for managing elections is largely decentralized and  
18 heavily dependent upon the ability of local election officials to recruit and train volunteer  
19 poll workers, the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted normal operating procedures and  
20 administrative practices.

21 4. In addition to acquiring the technology discussed below regarding signature  
22 cure, the Secretary of State's office has issued guidance to the county clerks on the subject  
23 of signature cure. All of the counties should be following the same procedure. Once the  
24 county becomes aware that a signature cure is needed, the county will mail the voter a  
25 letter within 48 hours.

26 5. If a signature discrepancy is discovered at any time before the Saturday after  
27 the election, the voter will be contacted by mail, but not by telephone, text, or email at that  
28 time. In the interest of efficiency, the decision was made to contact voters by mail during

1 this time frame because telephone numbers and email addresses are not always in the voter  
2 file. The letter will inform the voter that a signature cure is needed and then instruct the  
3 voter on how to proceed with curing the signature discrepancy.

4 6. Starting the Saturday after the election, if the county becomes aware that a  
5 signature cure is needed, the county will not send a signature cure letter of the voter.  
6 Instead, the county will attempt to contact the voter using any additional contact  
7 information the county has on file for the voter (phone, text, and email). If no such contact  
8 information is on file for the voter, no signature cure opportunity will be provided. Any  
9 voter requested to cure a signature discrepancy must completed the signature cure process  
10 by 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday after the election.

11 7. Making the transition to a vote-by-mail election is not only logistically  
12 challenging, but expensive. Therefore, on April 30, 2020, I testified before the Interim  
13 Finance Committee (IFC) of the Nevada Legislature in regards to the availability of federal  
14 grant funds to assist with the administration of the 2020 primary election.

15 8. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)  
16 appropriates \$400 million in emergency funds for use by the states to prevent, prepare for,  
17 and respond to the election threats posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevada's portion of  
18 this grant funding is \$4,496,720.

19 9. Of the roughly \$4.5 million that is available to Nevada under the CARES Act,  
20 the Office of the Secretary of State has received IFC approval to allocate expenditures as  
21 follows:

22 a. \$565,000 will be used to procure the additional voting equipment  
23 needed to process the significant increase in mail ballots. Necessary equipment includes  
24 ballot scanners, ballot printers, and adjudication equipment.

25 b. Another \$500,000 will be used to procure non-voting equipment, such  
26 as mail sorters and commercial letter openers.

27 c. The largest portion will be spent on ballot printing and outbound  
28 postage. This amount is estimated at \$2.4 million. There will be nearly a nine-fold increase

1 in the number of ballots printed for this election compared to previous elections. Each  
2 ballot costs approximately \$1.10 to print and mail.

3 d. In order to make sure no voter is precluded from returning their ballot  
4 by mail due to lack of return postage, all ballots will come with a postage prepaid ballot  
5 return envelope. The cost for the ballot return postage is estimated at \$235,000.

6 e. Next, \$34,000 will be spent to procure an electronic signature cure  
7 service. If a voter returns a mail ballot but forgets to sign their ballot return envelope, or  
8 if the signature on their ballot return envelope doesn't match any of the signatures we have  
9 on file for the voter, the voter will be given an opportunity to engage in a process known as  
10 "signature cure," which gives voters an opportunity to confirm that they did actually cast  
11 their mail ballot. The electronic signature cure service will allow voters to cure signatures  
12 directly on their phone or tablet.

13 f. Lastly, because of the change to a vote-by-mail election for the 2020  
14 primary election, the Secretary of State believes a large-scale voter education campaign is  
15 needed. The office has contracted with a Reno-based marketing firm and will be spending  
16 \$753,000 to get information to voters about the vote-by-mail primary election. This effort  
17 includes TV and radio ads, digital ads for social media, direct mail marketing, and a website  
18 dedicated specifically for providing information about the primary election.

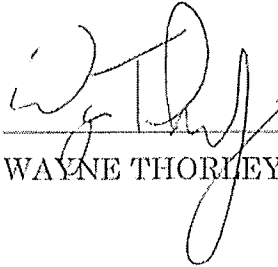
19 10. The CARES Act currently requires that states provide a 20 percent match as  
20 a condition of receiving the federal grant funds. Nevada's state match requirement is  
21 approximately \$900,000.

22 11. I am aware that there is bipartisan support among state election officials for  
23 a proposal to eliminate the state match requirement under the CARES Act. Because state  
24 and local budgets throughout the county have been severely impacted by the COVID-19  
25 pandemic and the resulting lockdown of businesses, we are hopeful that Congress may  
26 eliminate the state match requirement.

27 12. In the meantime, the Secretary of State's office is working with county election  
28 officials to allocate limited resources in a way that will encourage full voter participation

1 while simultaneously protecting the health of poll workers, election volunteers, and the  
2 public.

3 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the state of Nevada that the  
4 foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I have affixed my  
5 signature hereto this 4th day of May, 2020.

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8 WAYNE THORLEY  
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